
Rombo Mountain Fire Bitterroot National Forest News Release

Northern Rockies
Incident Management
Team
Larry Svalberg
Incident Commander

For Immediate Release

**Contact: Fire Information
406-821-0082**

Date: August 14, 2007 9 p.m.

Rombo Mountain Fire Grows to 6,500 Acres

West Fork, Mont. – The Rombo Mountain Fire grew an estimated 1000 acres on Tuesday. Heavy smoke conditions from fires in Idaho, which has a similar effect as cloud cover continued to reduce fire spread during the morning hours. After the smoke cleared, fire behavior increased with tree torching, short duration upslope crown fire runs and spotting. Firefighters continue to construct, improve and hold lines. A spot fire over the line was immediately contained. Fire spread was primarily to the east and north. Helicopters were used to drop water and hold the fire spread and limit fire spread and hold the fire east of Division B. This lightning caused fire started on July 31 and is located 16 miles south of Conner, MT and 4 miles northeast of Painted Rocks Lake.

Shelter wrap was transported via helicopter sling loads to the Medicine Point Lookout for future wrapping of the roof.

A firefighter sustained back and rib injuries today in a tree felling accident. He was transported via Life Flight to a hospital in Hamilton and is in stable condition. No other information is available at this time.

Night operations were initiated tonight with engines to patrol the lines and to begin mop-up actions along the line.

Plans for Wednesday are similar to yesterday's; keep the fire east of the 5715A road and utilize helicopter bucket drops as necessary, contain any spot fires across the fire line; improve the indirect fire line to the northeast from Rombo Creek; and complete structure protection wrapping of Medicine Lookout Tower, if conditions allow.

The closure order remains in effect and fire and forest officials ask the public to cooperate with the closure for public and firefighter safety. Maps and full descriptions of the closed area

are available at Forest offices, and on line at www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot. The area closure will be expanded to the east. The Forest is under Stage 2 fire restrictions which prohibit campfires and smoking other than in a vehicle, building or cleared area due to the high fire danger.

Though there are a number of active fires with necessary closures, most of the Bitterroot National Forest is still open for hiking and fishing. Contact your nearest Ranger District Office or the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor's Office for current recreation activity opportunities.

A total of 171 personnel are assigned to the fire and additional firefighting crews and helicopters to provide support have been requested, but may not be available due to the large number of fires burning in Montana and other states at this time.

Public and firefighter safety are the highest priority that Svalberg's incident management team, in coordination with the local forest personnel, take into consideration when planning and implementing fire management actions.

SPECIAL NOTICE

There will be a Rombo Mountain Fire Information Meeting Wednesday, August 15, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sula Club House. The Fire Management Team will give a briefing on the current fire conditions. In addition to the Fire Management Team, representatives from the Sula Rural Volunteer Fire Department, the Sula Ranger District and the Ravalli County Sheriff's Department will be on hand to answer questions.

For additional information call Rombo Mountain Fire information at 821-0082 or visit the website, www.inciweb.org.

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